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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6225

April 7, 2004

Dear Colleague:

I wanted to share with you the enclosed letter I received today from General Richard Myers, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, expressing the strong support of the Joint Chiefs and the combatant commanders for U.S. accession to the Law of the Sea Convention. General Myers emphasizes that the Convention remains a top U.S. national security priority. He also refutes erroneous charges that the Convention would adversely affect U.S. intelligence operations or the Administration's Proliferation Security Initiative.

The truth about the Convention is best reflected by the support the Convention enjoys among those whose interests it directly affects. As General Myers makes clear, the Convention advances the ability of our Armed Forces to protect U.S. security interests worldwide.

I urge you to join me in supporting early consideration of the Law of the Sea Convention on the Senate floor and approval of the Convention by the full Senate.

Sincerely,



Richard G. Lugar  
Chairman

RGL/mmk

Enclosure



CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20318-9999

7 April 2004

The Honorable Richard G. Lugar  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign  
Relations  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510-6225

Dear Mr. Chairman,

The testimony of the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Vern Clark, to the Senate Armed Services Committee regarding the Law of the Sea Convention (LOSC) reflects the views of the combatant commanders and the Joint Chiefs. We strongly support US accession to LOSC.

The Convention remains a top national security priority. In today's fast changing world, it ensures the ability of the US Armed Forces to operate freely across the vast expanse of the world's oceans under the authority of widely recognized and accepted international law. It supports efforts in the War on Terrorism by providing much-needed stability and operational maneuver space, codifying essential navigational and overflight freedoms.

The rules under which US forces have operated for over 40 years to board and search ships or to conduct intelligence activities will not be affected. The LOSC does not require permission from the United Nations to conduct these searches and leaves US intelligence activities unaffected. Moreover, the Proliferation Security Initiative is designed to be consistent with international law and frameworks, including the LOSC. While the Administration previously raised a concern regarding dispute resolution, that has been satisfactorily addressed by the proposed Resolution on Advice and Consent. Accession will provide continued US leadership in the development and interpretation of the Law of the Sea and ensure changes are compatible with future military initiatives.

I appreciate your continued strong support of the LOSC and the US Armed Forces.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Richard B. Myers", is positioned above the printed name.

RICHARD B. MYERS

Chairman  
of the Joint Chiefs of Staff